aku-tenshi

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恋星、深紅を抱く

片桐美亜

NICE TO MEET YOU, I AM IRUKA SUMOTO.
THERE'S A SMALL PLACE THAT I CAN WALK TO FROM MY HOUSE, AND THAT IS--
WHOA!
IRUKA, OUT OF SCHOOL, HIS DESTINATION IS...

-- the planetarium.
Planetarium
CLOS-
AHH, RIGHT, RIGHT
Nonacceptance by the order of the chief, the planetarium is closed indefinitely.
GEEZ, THAT GUY...
HUH?
SFX: HEAVY FOOTSTEPS

HERE
Then the back door...
SFX. DEEP BREATH
MY RIVAL IS HERE!
Detective
OPEN
AKUTAYA -SAN, LISTEN TO-
THUD

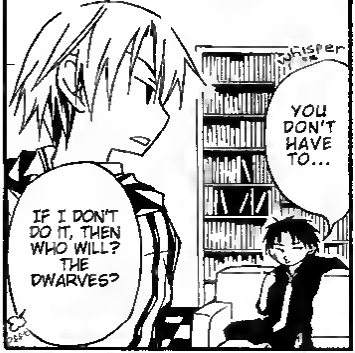
Roll
.....uh
GLATTER
Grip
IT'S THE SAME ROOM AS EVER.

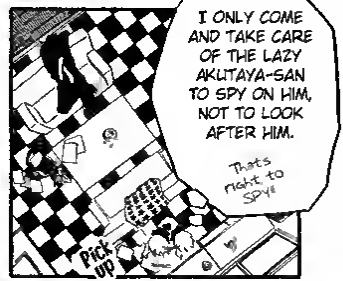
BASA
Pull
UP
Huh?
OW
THIS PERSON IS THE CHIEF OF THE PLANETARIUM, AND
A DETECTIVE OF THE SOUTH CROSS DETECTIVE OFFICE,
BIROU AKUTAYA.
PU

HEY, LET GO!!
What a persistent idiot!
ONI*--
BOO-
HE USED TO BE IN THE F.B.I IN AMERICA
(HUH? OR WAS IT THE C I A?)
THIS GUY HAS MANY MYSTERIES ABOUT HIS PAST.
* ONI IS A JAPANESE HORNED-DEVIL
Sniff
ALL I KNOW IS,
THAT CLIENTS= MONEY, MEANING
Ahh sleepy
HE IS A DETECTIVE THAT ONLY DOES WORK THAT IS TO HIS ADVANTAGE.

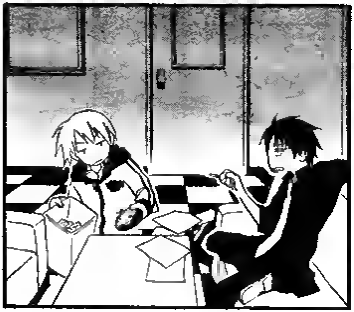
MAYBE I'M A LITTLE OFF?
I'VE ONLY SEEN HIM LAZE AROUND...
AHH-AH... THE LONG-AWAITED SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ANPAN AND DORA
THEN, AKUTAYA-SAN, SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU AWAKE
UNFOLD
WHAT PISSES ME OFF MOST ABOUT THIS DETECTIVE...
THIS
SOLVE IT.
HOW BORING.
DOES YOUR BROTHER WANT TO DIE?
33.13.42.21
RUN THIS ITEM.
-YOUR BRO

HE'S A NATURAL GENIUS!!!
As a normal person I would be able to solve it with one glance.
Hmm?
THAT CODE HAS TOO MANY FAULTS IN IT.
I'M TRYING TO SOLVE IT, AND AN IMMEDIATE VICTORY IS JUST TOO IRRITATING.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR CASES OF DAKUON OR HANDAKUON OR YOUONN?*
IT WAS BETTER TO DO THE CODE WITH THE ALPHABET.
I GUESS THIS IS OUT OF THE QUESTION?
* DAKUON THE D- AND B- SOUNDS IN JAPANESE HANDAKUON THE P-SOUND IN JAPANESE AND YOUONN THE MINI LETTERS THAT MAKE THE VOWELS LONGER OR SHORTER
THAT'S WHY SOMEDAY,
I WILL SURPASS HIM!
THAT'S MY INTENTION!
DAMMIIIT!!!
RIP
RIP
RIP
Still got a way to go! (Hahaha)
CRUSH





* SOMEONE WHO INDULGES IN EXCESSIVE SENTIMENTALITY



HEY WAIT, YOU'RE WRONG!
I MAY LOVE THE STARS, BUT I'M NOT A ROMANTICIST!
I'M A TOTAL REALIST!*
AND ABOUT TODAY, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
Where does it
WHY DON'T YOU EAT THE LEFT-OVERS?

* A PERSON WHO ACCEPTS THE WORLD AS IT LITERALLY IS AND DEALS WITH IT ACCORDINGLY

RUSTLE
I WAS THINKING OF TALKING TO YOU ABOUT THIS
OKAY, PUTTING ALL JOKES ASIDE...
WHAT'S THIS?
A NEWSPAPER.
SORRY, I'M GONNA CRY
RECENTLY, IN THIS AREA, THERE HAS BEEN
A SERIAL DISAPPEARANCE CASE.
THE CASE STARTED ABOUT A MONTH AGO...

THERE WAS NO CONTACT FROM THE KIDNAPPER AND NO CONTACT FROM THE MISSING GIRL.
AND THE CASE BECAME A COLD CASE...
SHE WAS LATE IN COMING HOME, SO HER WORRIED PARENTS CONTACTED THE POLICE.
THE FIRST ONE THAT DISAPPEARED WAS A SUPPOSED PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CHISA UONUKI
Chisa Uonuki
AKEMI OOMUTA (AGE 25)
DISAPPEARED...
Akemi Oomuta
ONE AFTER ANOTHER
AKIRA KARATU (AGE 18)
Akira Karatu
IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, AND IN SUCH A NEARBY PLACE, THREE PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED.
ISN'T THIS A GREAT MYSTERY!?

GRIND GRIND GRIND
IT'S NOT THAT RARE EITHER
CLATTER
YOU THINK?
BUT WITH-
WITH THAT ASIDE...
AKUTAYA -SAN!?
WHAT...
WHO'S THAT?
THAT
You shouldn't hang out with weird kids--
WHAT!!?
13

HE RAN.
THAT BASTARD ...
GRAB
STOP DAMMIT !!!
PAUSE
H-HUH?

The same uniform, meaning the same school, and he knows my name, meaning even if it's a small possibility, we've met each other...
UMMM...
HEY! SUMOTO!!
Long time no see!
OH, YEAH... SASA.. GURI...
IT'S SASAGURI
DUM
I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE!! I REMEMBER, BUT... UGH...
SFX: SPIN (HIS BRAIN WORKING)
OHHHHH!!! NOW I REMEMBER!!!
Oh,
SASAGURI!!
WE USED TO BE CLASS-MATES.
FORMER CLASS-MATES?
What a stupid conversation
YUP.

SHADDUP!
SORRY I WAS SO SUDDEN, SUMOTO
!!
THAT'S RIGHT! WHY ARE YOU HERE...
I just said that
HE WAS SASAGURI, MY FORMER CLASSMATE!
Retired-kun
AHH IT FEELS GOOD WHEN WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO COME OUT, COMES OUT, DOESN'T IT?
How many days has it been?
16
AREN'T YOU INVESTI-GATING THIS?
I'M INVES-TIGATING THIS TOO, OUT OF CURIOSITY.
SHOVE
UGH
2005年7月6日
THIS IS...

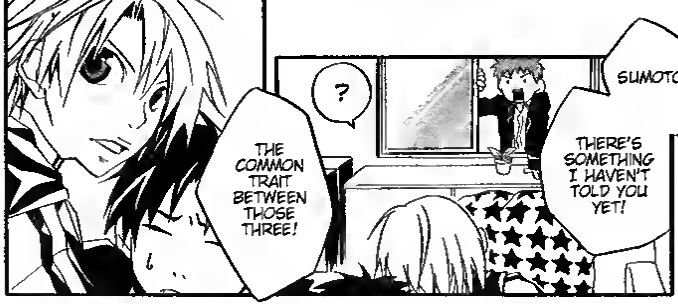
SUMOTO?
Aah, sorry.
SO, WAS THERE ANY NEW INFORMATION?
?
See see see!!
Turn away
AN...
AN ALLY--!!!
YEAH, WELL
DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?
THE PEOPLE THAT DISAPPEARED DROPPED THEIR CELL PHONES
AND NUMBERS WERE ON THE SCREENS.

CELL PHONE !!?
NUMBERS !!?
OH, SO YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
IT'S SOME-THING I HEARD, BUT
I WAS THINKING THAT IT WAS SOME KIND OF MESSAGE. .
Wow—!
GREAT GREAT!
This is good!
THIS DEFINITELY HAS THE MYSTERY MOOD☆
Hmm
Point
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOU LAZY DETECTIVE, THIS IS IMPORTANT--
ANGRY
--HEY !!! DON'T SLEEP !!!
ZZZ
DETECTIVE?

Ahh, don't fall asleep!!
DETECTIVE..
CLICK!
OH YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?
By the back door
THIS PLANETARIUM'S CHIEF-SAN IS ALSO DOING SOME DETECTIVE WORK.
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE!!
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE WAS A COMMISSION TO..
IF YOU'RE A DETECTIVE, WHY DON'T YOU THINK ABOUT SOLVING THIS CASE!?
SUMOTO, YOU SHOULD STO-
THE CRIMINAL--
OHH, I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM.
SAYING THINGS LIKE "I'LL DEFINITELY SOLVE THIS CASE"..
DETECTIVES SHOULD HAVE MORE INTEREST IN THE CASE ITSELF--

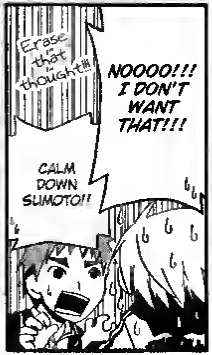
WANTS TO BE CAUGHT.
COLLECTING THEM ALL
LINING THEM
HE WANTS TO
Aku ta

SHOW OFF HIS ART
SO BADLY.
...OOH?! HE WENT INTO DETECTIVE MODE?!!
AKUTAYA-SAN, BE MORE SPECIF...
IC...
ZZZ...
DON'T SLEEP IDIOT !!!
If you know, tell me!!
SUMOTO --



KANJI IN BLACK FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: COW, SHEEP, FISH
KANJI IN GRAY BEHIND THE BLACK KANJI IS BASICALLY THE NAMES OF THE VICTIMS

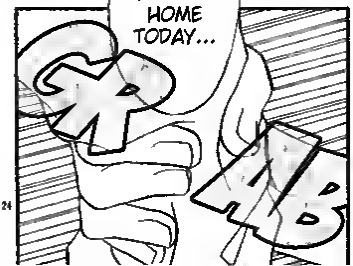
IRUKA = DOLPHIN



I DON'T THINK THERE'S A REASON TO GO...
SO PUSHY?
YEAH! GO BACK!!
IT DOESN'T HURT TO BE PRECAUTIOUS! GO BACK!?
AS IF...
TOGETHER
TOGETHER

THAT MIGHT BE SO
SUMOTO MIGHT BE NEXT...

SORRY AKUTAYA -SAN
I THINK I'LL GO HOME TODAY...


GP

SERIOUS
I GOT IT
I GOT IT!!
MAN-- THIS GUY WON'T GO HOME ALONE...

WAIT A MINUTE
DAMN, MY VALUABLE TIME !!

EH!? WHAT?!! A new way to bully me!?
WHA-?!
GRAB
PULL
SHH.
HE'S THE CRIMINAL.

"THE NUMBERS LEFT BEHIND" IS INFORMATION THAT ISN'T RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC YET.
HELD-BACK INFORMATION IS NOT EASY TO KNOW, ESPECIALLY FOR A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
HUH?
COMPARING "SHEEP AND COW", THEY'RE TOO DIFFERENT FROM "FISH," THAT IS--
Wa-
WAIT A MINUTE!!
Whispering
EVEN IF THE "NUMBERS" ARE FACTS, THE "ANIMALS" ARE UNBELIEVABLE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN INVESTIGATE IT AND YOU KNOW ALL THIS...

SINCE IT'S NOT YOUR JOB.
IS IT RUDE FOR THE CRIMINAL?
↓ No
EVEN IF YOU FIND THE TRUTH UNWILLINGLY,
YOU WON'T TAKE ACTION RIGHT?
27
THEN
I WILL FIND OUT THE TRUTH
AND CAPTURE THE CRIMINAL.

SLAM
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.
RIGHT NOW
EVEN IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SURPASS THIS PERSON
I AT LEAST WANT TO

BECOME A RIVAL.
HEY
PUNCH
NOW HOW TO BRING UP THE SUBJECT
Ha ha
BEING ASSAULTED--
SEE?
YOU MIGHT BE ASSAULTED FROM BEHIND!!
WHY BEHIND ...?
GUARD

slide
THIS IS.. THE.. FRONT ...
clench
UH...
OW~~~
COUGH
DAMN, I FAI-

THE CRIMINAL WANTS TO BE FOUND

12

COLLECTING THEM ALL

SHEEP 羊

1

魚 FISH

LINING THEM UP

HE WANTS TO

SHOW OFF HIS ART SO BADLY.

2

3

THE TRANSPARENT KANJI BEHIND ARE THE NAMES YET AGAIN OF THE VICTIMS

SFX: TURN QUICKLY
CORRECT.
..IT CAN'T BE...
ZODIACS ...?
--SAGURI...

I LIKED THE ZODIACS FROM LONG AGO.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO MAKE
STEP
SO YOU REALLY...?
MY VERY OWN
TWELVE ZODIACS.
AND THE NUMBERS
WERE SIMPLY THE ORDERS USED IN HOROSCOPES.

STEP
STEP
IF ANYTHING
A STAR FANATIC IS TIRING.
LISTENING TO
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR
SUMOTO TO CATCH ME
Even you say it's impossible
DID YOU KNOW?
SLOWLY

THERE'S ALSO A DOLPHIN IN THE ZODIAC.
SFX GRAB
SFX PUNCH
SFX BAM
SFX RELEASE
SFX DASH
SFX FALL

NOW
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
I WONDER HOW LONG YOU CAN MAKE THAT KIND OF FACE.
Dammit
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
CLENCH
AS IT IS, I'LL--
I KNOW, LITTLE BY LITTLE, I'LL--

IT'S OVER FOR YOU AND YOUR LITTLE ASTRONOMY.
SFX: KICK
SFX: BANG
GAH...

STEP
...GEEZ...
DIDN'T I SAY IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE?

YOU SHOULD REALLY LISTEN
TO YOUR ELDERS.

OH, MAN YOU LOOK HORRIBLE
You'll get even uglier
HM? WHAT'S WRONG?
You gonna cry?
WHY...
DID YOU COME...
GRIP

I COULD'VE CAPTURED HIM BY MYSELF!!
I DIDN'T NEED... YOUR HELP AT ALL...
Yeah, yeah...
DAMMIT
Don't touch me

I THOUGHT WHAT IF, BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REALLY GO AFTER IRUKA
WHAT A BAD CULPRIT
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
WELL THEN,
SA-SAGU-RI-KUN
STEP
AND..
UMMM
Er
Huh?
Well
I GUESS THAT ISSUE IS IT-
PULL
IF YOU WANTED TO DO THE 12 ZODIACS, YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT EXCLUSIVE
はいおきえ
YOU CAN'T INCLUDE A DIFFERENT ZODIAC.
PAT
AND BREAKING DOWN YOUR SCHEME
Yeah
Alright Get up

DON'T AFFECT OTHERS WITH THIS STUPID "ARTISTIC CRIME"
BRAT.
IN THE END...

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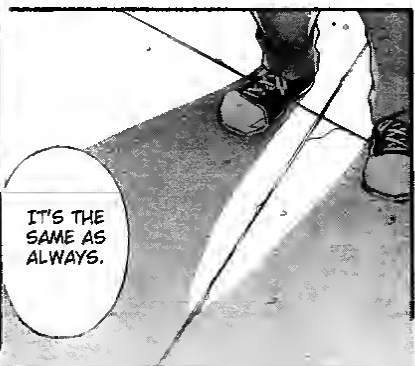

I WANT TO BE A RIVAL.
AKUTAYA -SAN,
I WANT TO BE YOUR EQUAL.
I CAN'T..
BUT---
PUKI
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
TODAY, WE HAVE JAPANESE!
WHAT!?
WAI--
THE FISH SHOULD HAVE SOME SIDE DISHES TOO!
.....

STOP!
LET GO!
I CAN WALK BY MYSELF...
WE'RE GOING HOME.
SIDE DISHES!
How stubborn!
I KNOW!!
POUT
IT'S FINE IF I MAKE IT RIGHT!!!
...YES...
AND--
MORE!!?
We don't have any tofu left!

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

The END.

おわり